

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /104 W

----- 044481

R 020453Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 843

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TW, CH

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF F-104G AIRCRAFT TO ROC

REF: STATE 016994

1. ROC AIR FORCE (ROCAF) STATES SHELDON AIRCRAFT PRODUCTS CORPORATION HAS NOT OFFERED TO SEEL F-104G AIRCRAFT TO ROC NOR HAS THERE BEEN CONTACT BETWEEN FIRM AND ROCAF. SINCE US EXPORTERS FREQUENTLY COME TO TAIWAN TO MAKE INITIAL PRESENTATION WITH EXPORT LICENSE IN HAND, SAME ROCAF OFFICIALS CONJECTURE SHELDON MAY WANT TO BE SIMILARLY ARMED BEFORE MAKING OFFER.

2. NEVERTHELESS, ROC IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING LIMITED NUMBER OF F-104G AIRCRAFT AS ATTRITION REPLACEMENTS. AT PRESENT, ROC INVENTORY OF G MODEL IS DOWN TO 39 AIRCRAFT. IN EFFORT TO MAKE UP DEFICIENCY, ROC IS NEGOTIATING A CASH PURCHASE WITH WEST GERMANS OF THREE FRG-OWNED F-104G'S (AT REPORTED US\$800,000 EACH). ROC F-104G SQUADRONS HAVE SHORTFALL OF 10-12 PLANES IN AUTHORIZED VERSUS FLYABLE AIRCRAFT. PARTICULARLY AFFECTED IS THE THIRD TAC FIGHTER GROUP BASED AT CCK AIR BASE. BEFORE DELIVERIES OF CO-PRODUCED F5E AIR-
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CRAFT ARE MADE, AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL 8 TO 10 AIRCRAFT

WILL BE LOST BY ATTRITION. EVEN WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE, F5E'S WILL NOT BE REPLACEMENT FOR F-104G'S WHICH ARE ROC'S ONLY AIRCRAFT APPROACHING ALL-WEATHER INTERCEPTER. ACCORDINGLY, ROCAF ACQUISITION OF 10-12 F-104G AIRCRAFT FOR ATTRITION REPLACEMENT WOULD APPEAR VERY LOGICAL, AND WOULD NOT INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED FORCE STRUCTURE O* ROC AIR FORCE.

3. MOU ESTABLISHING F-5E CO-ASSEMBLY/CO-PRODUCTION WHICH PROVIDES FOR DECLARING EXCESS "EQUAL NUMBER" OF F-100/*-104'S AS F-5E'S COME OFF LINE WOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY PURCHASE OF F-104G'S TO FILL SQUADRONS TO&E'S. PRESUMABLY, F-100'S (92 CURRENTLY IN INVENTORY) AND F-104A'S (20 ON HAND AND WITH VERY RESTRICTED AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY) WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FIRST.

4. COUNTRY TEAM CONCURS THAT ROCAF HAS VALID REQUIREMENT FOR*LIMITED NUMBER (10-12, DEPENDING ON PRICE AND TERMS) OF REPLACEMENT F-104G'S. BELIEVE ROC WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING SHELDON CORPORATION OFFER IF MADE TO THEM.
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Message Attributes

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